

gem was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The building, with its renaissance style architecture and aesthetic charm, still functions as a venue for educational, civic, and cultural purposes.

The City of Wasco has since flourished into a growing and vibrant community located in the heart of the most diversified agricultural region in the world. Wasco is nestled among blooming rose fields, almond and pistachio orchards, sugar beets, grapes, and white cotton fields among many other fruits and vegetables.

Wasco is also universally known as the Rose Capital of the Nation. Over 60 percent of all roses grown in the United States are grown in the Wasco area. Seven major rose companies grow more than 50 million plants in the North Kern County area. Rose companies were looking for a good climate, the right kind of soil, good land to lease, a desirable growing season, as well as an available labor force and water. Wasco has been home to many of these rose companies for over 50 years.

The history of this city further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of community, cooperation and shared vision that such success can be achieved. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the City of Wasco, as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

#### STATEMENT HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT EVERETT O. BELL

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful man and the former president of Texas Southern University, Everett O. Bell. Mr. Bell passed away last Thursday after a lengthy illness and he will be deeply missed.

Everett Bell was born on September 23, 1918 in Kosciusko, Mississippi to Ebb Owens Bell and Allie Glee, as one of ten children. He quickly showed his dedication to serving his community and his country, attaining the rank of Captain during his service in the United States Army during World War II. After leaving the service, Mr. Bell returned to the University of Kansas to attain his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Mr. Bell first came to Texas Southern in 1948 as a registrar and assistant professor at my alma mater, Texas Southern's School of Law, later to become the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. This marked the beginning of 46 years of distinguished service to the university in various capacities. He served as director of personnel, acting dean of the School of Law, assistant to the president under seven different administrations, vice president for administrative affairs, and executive director for regent relations, among other positions. From 1979 to 1980, Mr. Bell served as Texas Southern's fifth president following the departure of President Granville Sawyer. He continued working at the school through 1994, when he retired after his extremely distinguished career.

Mr. Bell served Texas Southern University and the rest of his community admirably

throughout the course of his life. In 1983, Texas Southern recognized his tireless service by naming the Student Services Building in his honor as Everett O. Bell Hall. He also served admirably in the Episcopal Church, where he served on the Diocese of Texas' Executive Board and Race Relations Board. Mr. Bell also demonstrated his commitment to his community by serving on the Board of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

I would like to express my condolences to Everett Bell's family, friends and all those who will miss him dearly. I would also like to express my admiration for his lifelong dedicated service to his community and his country.

#### PERCY SUTTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for the resolution to name the post office at 365 West 125th Street in New York City as the "Percy Sutton Post Office Building."

A civil rights leader and businessman, Percy Sutton was a pre-eminent fixture of New York politics, serving as a member of the New York State Assembly and from 1966 through 1977 as Manhattan Borough President. Most of all, Percy Sutton was one of the architects of the effort to revive Upper Manhattan.

Percy Sutton once said, "If you pray for only one thing, let it be for an idea." He was a man of innumerable ideas—many of them profoundly important for New York City and for the community he represented. He lived an astonishingly full life that included stints as a stunt pilot, military intelligence officer, lawyer, civil rights activist, politician, media baron and technology executive.

Most of all, Percy Sutton dared to dream the impossible. At a time when Harlem was crumbling, he believed that it could become a tourist attraction. When the famous Apollo Theatre closed, it threatened to become another vacant shell on a street of shuttered stores. He acquired the theater, in a move that is widely considered the first step to the renewal of 125th Street.

Percy Sutton had an important and lasting impact on the community surrounding the post office, and it is fitting to have a federal building named in his honor. I am proud to support H.R. 954.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHWEST DIGEST

#### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Southwest Digest for 30 years of service in the Lubbock community. Over the past 30 years, the Southwest Digest has provided the African American community of Lubbock with news and current events. The news-

paper has strongly advocated for economic and community development and against drugs and violence. Its editors have also focused on the special needs of senior citizens, young people, and the poor in the community.

Eddie Richardson and T.J. Patterson co-founded the Southwest Digest in 1977. In addition to their work with the newspaper, both men have been active in serving the Lubbock community and state of Texas, and both also served their country in the U.S. armed forces.

After working with Texas State Representative Al Edwards for many years, Eddie Richardson was appointed by the governor as a commissioner on Texas' Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. T.J. Patterson's career in education included teaching in Lubbock and serving as Assistant Dean at the Texas Tech College of Business. He was also a leader in local government, becoming the first African American elected to the Lubbock City Council in 1984. He was named Mayor Pro-Tem in 1990 and stepped down from the Lubbock City Council in 2004.

Under the leadership of Eddie Richardson and T.J. Patterson, the Southwest Digest has made many notable contributions to the Lubbock area. Some of these include participating in 85 marches against gangs, drugs and violence over the years. In 2002, the editors established the Southwest Digest Foundation to help support disadvantaged young people. Through the years, the Southwest Digest has continued to spread the message that drugs and crime should not be tolerated in the Lubbock community.

This newspaper has had a positive impact on Lubbock for the past 30 years. I congratulate the editors on their work and wish the Southwest Digest continued success for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BURKE CENTRE CONSERVANCY

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Burke Centre Conservancy, located in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The Burke Centre Conservancy is a home owners association representing 5,862 homes on 1,700 acres of land. A planned residential community, Burke Centre is comprised of single family homes, townhouses, condominiums, co-ops, duplexes and quad units. The variety of housing located in Burke Centre provides the Conservancy with unique and pressing challenges in ensuring a healthy quality of life for all of its residents.

Burke Centre is governed by an annually-elected board of trustees with seven volunteer members. The board acts to maintain community assets; address resident concerns; manage the financial assets of the corporation; execute the yearly budget; enforce Conservancy rules; administer community programs; encourage volunteer efforts; and to provide services to enhance a positive lifestyle within the Burke Centre community.

Significant accomplishments of the Burke Centre Conservancy include a community risk